

Bodily Integrity

ANDORRA

In July, in a joint civil society [submission](#) to Andorra's Universal Periodic Review (UPR), civil society organisations noted the absence of any public law protecting the bodily integrity of intersex people.

In a December meeting with Diversand, the Ministry of Health stated that healthcare protocols exist to safeguard the bodily integrity of intersex newborns, but these protocols have not been made public. (See also under Human Rights Defenders.)

AUSTRIA

In May, Austria's Green Party submitted a [proposal](#) for the Conversion Measures Protection Act (295/A) aimed at banning conversion practices targeting sexual orientation or gender identity. The draft law specifically protects minors, young adults under 21 in vulnerable situations, individuals lacking decision-making capacity, and persons in dependent relationships, regardless of parental or legal consent. Violations could result in up to one year imprisonment or fines of up to €720 daily rates, with additional fines of up to €30,000 for advertising or commissioning such measures. The bill excludes legitimate therapeutic interventions, such as treatments for paraphilic disorders or psychotherapeutic support to strengthen queer individuals' self-esteem.

In November 2024, the Ministry of Health (BMSGPK) published new recommendations concerning medical interventions on children with variations of sex characteristics, without prior consultation with civil society organisations. In [response](#), VIMÖ reiterated the need for a legal prohibition of non-consensual, medically unnecessary interventions on intersex minors, alongside accompanying support measures. In February 2025, the newly formed government included a provision on the protection of intersex minors in its coalition [agreement](#).

BELGIUM

The Council of Europe has repeatedly called on its member states to guarantee the rights of intersex people. In Belgium, a [draft bill](#) "aimed at preserving the physical and psychological integrity as well as the bodily autonomy of persons with variations of sex characteristics" was introduced in July

2024 by the Ecolo political group. These legislative proposals explicitly build on the recommendations of the Council of Europe and seek to strengthen the protection of intersex people's rights. The proposals have been submitted on several occasions but have not been examined at plenary committee level; they remain blocked, thus preventing any progress in the legislative process.

FINLAND

In February, the Pirkanmaa District Court began [hearing](#) Finland's first case linked to conversion practices. A man and woman from Pirkanmaa stand accused of assault against a single plaintiff, whom they reportedly met through religious activities. While providing conversion practices is not itself criminalised under Finnish law, the prosecution argues that the practices in this case amounted to assault as they can constitute psychological violence. In March, the accused were [convicted](#) for the assault charges.

In February, the Finnish Parliament's Law Committee provisionally [backed](#) a citizens' initiative to ban conversion practices. The Finns Party and Christian Democrats had previously stated that the ban would not advance during the electoral period due to a lack of consensus, and their representatives were believed to have voted against the initiative in committee. In March, the Finnish Parliament [endorsed](#) the initiative during its plenary session with 125 votes in favour and 49 against. Nonetheless, in late March, Justice Minister Leena Meri (Finns Party) [announced](#) that the proposed ban would not advance during the current government's term, arguing that the Justice Ministry lacked the time and resources to prepare the necessary legislation. Meri also maintained that the issue required further study, stressing that the absence of consensus among governing parties complicated progress. The Christian Democrats, in particular, opposed criminalisation, citing concerns about restrictions on religious activities. Finnish Prime Minister Petteri

Orpo of the National Coalition Party echoed these comments, and by the end of 2025 the government had not introduced legislation to implement the ban, leaving the initiative stalled. Nonetheless,

in November, MP Saara Hyrkkö (green party) submitted a motion to amend the criminal code to ban conversion practices. The motion was signed by over half of the MP's across parliamentary groups

IRELAND

In April, *Belong To* and Trinity College Dublin published the *Being LGBTQI+ in Ireland - Intersex Sub-report*, based on responses from 31 intersex participants. The report found that 39% had undergone medical interventions related to their intersex variation, with most describing these as non-consensual or lacking informed consent. High levels of psychological distress were recorded, including lifetime self-harm (60%), suicidal thoughts (74%) and suicide attempts (50%), and the report highlighted ongoing concerns regarding bodily autonomy and transparency in medical care.

In July, the Council of Europe Commission Against Racism and Intolerance (ECRI) recommended Ireland to introduce legislation that expressly acknowledge the right of intersex persons to bodily integrity and prohibit the performance of medically unnecessary surgeries and other non-therapeutic treatment until the intersex child is able to participate in the decision. ECRI also recommended other actions to enhance intersex healthcare.

In November, a trans woman who used her frozen sperm to have a child with her wife was granted permission by the High Court to challenge the State's refusal to grant Irish citizenship to the child. The case arises from the State's refusal to recognise her as the birth mother, requiring her instead to claim the role of "father" on official documentation. The woman, an Irish citizen, is seeking a declaration that she is legally and genetically a parent of the child, an order compelling the State to register the child on the Foreign Births Register, and the granting of Irish citizenship under the Irish Nationality and Citizenship Act.

NETHERLANDS

In January, a broad coalition of civil society organisations called on the House of Representatives to adopt a ban on conversion practices. In February, the Dutch Senate opened its first round of debate

on the proposal, focusing on the scope of the ban, enforcement mechanisms, and potential exemptions. The House of Representatives subsequently published an explanatory note clarifying that the bill aims to criminalise attempts to suppress or change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Christian medical association and a UK-based Christian lobby group criticised the proposal, warning that it could affect pastoral conversations and counselling. In September, a revised version of the bill was introduced. The updated text limits criminal liability to systematic and intrusive attempts to change or suppress sexual orientation or gender identity, explicitly excluding casual conversations and voluntary counselling. Following these amendments, several parties that had previously opposed the proposal, including NSC, CDA, and BBB, indicated increased support. On 9 September, the House of Representatives adopted the revised bill by majority vote. By the end of 2025, the bill had not yet been adopted into law. It remained pending further consideration in the Senate, with no final vote having taken place.

PORTUGAL

In March, Pedro Alexandre Costa, Professor of Psychology and Educational Sciences at the University of Porto, noted that limited progress had been made one year after Portugal's ban on conversion practices entered into force. He highlighted that the law required the completion, within one year, of a study assessing the prevalence of such practices and their impact on the physical and mental health of victims. The Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality (CIG) responded that procurement procedures were still being prepared, in cooperation with the Directorate-General for Health (DGS), in order to launch a market consultation.

SERBIA

In 2025, in Serbia, the right to bodily integrity for LGBTI people remains under serious pressure according to the Fundamental Rights Agency's (FRA) "Country Factsheet on Serbia." The factsheet noted that 32% of respondents reported they had experienced conversion practices to change their sexual orientation or gender identity - compared to 24% for the EU's 27 member states.

SPAIN

In January, the Association against Conversion Therapies filed a [complaint](#) with the Ministry of Equality against seven Catholic dioceses and affiliated entities over the programme "Transformados", alleging the promotion of practices aimed at changing sexual orientation in violation of Law 4/2023 on LGBTI equality. The Minister of Equality subsequently [met](#) with the Spanish Episcopal Conference amid ongoing scrutiny of [alleged](#) conversion practices linked to diocesan structures.

Throughout the year, legislative initiatives were introduced to criminalise so-called conversion therapies, which are currently prohibited under administrative law. In February, the Ministry of Equality [announced](#) it was studying a reform of the Penal Code, and a proposal was registered in Congress seeking to [establish](#) criminal penalties for practices intended to modify or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. In June, a bill [introduced](#) by the Socialist Party began parliamentary [processing](#).

At the same time, political divisions persisted. A proposal in the Madrid Assembly to urge criminalisation was [rejected](#), while local motions in the Valencian Community opposing conversion practices failed after votes by the Popular Party and Vox.

Individual cases also emerged. In February, a young man from Valencia [filed](#) a formal complaint against an association accused of subjecting youths to conversion practices. The Provincial Prosecutor's Office of Valencia opened an [investigation](#) into alleged practices linked to diocesan schools but later [dismissed](#) the complaint, referring the matter to education authorities for possible administrative review. Further complaints were [announced](#) by opposition parties by the end of the year.

SWITZERLAND

In June, Schaffhausen became the latest Swiss canton to initiate [legislation](#) against conversion practices, joining a growing alliance of cantonal governments seeking to outlaw such practices. Neuchâtel, Vaud and Valais have already adopted

bans, while Geneva, Zurich, St. Gallen, Aargau, Bern, Fribourg and Jura are in the midst of legislative processes. Advocacy groups welcomed the move but underlined that, while medical and therapeutic associations already prohibit conversion practices among their members, many are carried out by religious organisations, "life coaches" or self-styled advisors who operate outside any formal professional framework.

In July, the canton of Zurich [urged](#) the federal government to consider banning gender reassignment surgery for minors and restricting access to puberty blockers to clinical study settings. The initiative was presented as a protective measure for adolescents still forming their gender identity but medical experts and advocacy groups [criticised](#) the proposal, describing the move as "unfounded and not based on valid data" and stressing that current practice already allows surgery under 18 only in rare, carefully assessed cases.

TURKEY

In March, psychiatrist Ahmet Akin publicly [acknowledged](#) having subjected minors he identified as LGBTI to practices commonly referred to as conversion practices. In September, the Istanbul Chief Public Prosecutor's Office issued a [decision](#) of non-prosecution in a case brought against journalist Can Öztürk of T24, who had reported on these statements and related allegations. The investigation, initiated under Turkey's disinformation law following a complaint by Akin alleging the dissemination of misleading information and defamation, was closed after prosecutors concluded that the reporting was factually grounded, fell within the scope of press freedom and freedom of expression, and did not constitute a criminal offence.

UNITED KINGDOM

In May, Scottish ministers [announced](#) that criminalising conversion practices has been removed from the government's immediate agenda. Instead, they committed to working with the UK Government on a "four-nations approach" to legislation banning these practices. If no UK-wide bill is introduced, ministers pledged to bring forward a Scottish bill in the first year of the next parliament,

after the 2026 Holyrood elections.

In July, Amnesty International published a [report](#) revealing a sharp rise in funding and activity by anti-LGBTI groups in the UK, particularly those promoting so-called "conversion therapy." The research identified 65 active organisations, including 12 promoting conversion practices and 13 crisis pregnancy centres. UK branches of US-based organisations spent £34 million, ultra-conservative Christian advocacy groups £31.5 million, and anti-abortion organisations £28.5 million.

UZBEKISTAN

In October, a trans woman was forcibly committed to a psychiatric institution after neighbors filed complaints about her "behavior" and way of life. She was held in a locked ward for three days, denied access to her phone and prevented from contacting anyone during her detention.